

and canals, which become silted up or are converted into holdings. They urge that all such encroachments should be discovered and removed. That shows that the Department is necessary at least to examine some classes of *poramboles*. In regard to the details of the work done by the department, all that the Government can do is to remove evils as they come to their notice.

9. Organisation of Industries connected with Ginger, Pepper and Cardamoms.

MR. ITTIYAVIRA CHUMMAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that Kerala had been famous for its pepper, ginger and cardamoms from the time of Solomon, and that, from the days of the Assyrians, foreign nations had been trading with the country in those articles. The country had not been making the best out of its natural resources in pepper, ginger, cardamom, copra and coir. The value of the imports into the State was gradually becoming higher than that of its exports. The progress of education coupled with the natural increase in population had created the problem of unemployment. The organisation of industries connected with the above articles would, in the agencies required for the collection of the raw produce, and for the manufacture of finished articles, their transport and distribution, provide work for the unemployed. The successful establishment of some of such factory industries would reduce the scramble for the loaves and fishes of office and remove the present political discontent for which economic conditions were mainly responsible. The member thought that the people were hitherto content to remain as hewers of wood and drawers of water willing to be exploited by others.

As labour was cheap in Travancore, as the products mentioned above were almost a monopoly with the State, as experts could be got down from places where such industries flourished and as the necessary capital and machinery would be forthcoming if Government actively supported the proposal, the member was confident that the industries suggested by him could be established on a successful basis. The Government which once maintained a pepper department need not, according to him, hesitate to embark on such a venture.

DEWAN : I agree with what the member says about the improvement and promotion of industries connected with ginger, pepper and cardamoms. But I am not equally clear as to what the Government should or could do in the matter. The member charges the Government with neglect in regard to this question. I do not think that that charge is well-founded. We have started a pepper farm. We have made arrangements to distribute better cardamom seedlings. We are making arrangements to start a ginger farm. Facilities are given for the acquisition of land for the cultivation of these products. The member complains that money and machinery are wanting. What is the sort of machinery that is wanted, he does not tell me. As for money, it is with a view to create facilities for finance for the promotion of such industries that the State-aided Bank is being started. If the Government are convinced that any pioneer industry deserves encouragement, they are prepared to encourage such industry. Only very recently, we have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 25,000 for a pioneer industry, *viz.*, the opening of a factory for the manufacture of desiccated cocoanut. I do not think that the proposal that Government should start companies for trading in these commodities is a sound one. Government cannot obviously do the work of merchants. I do not think that there are any other ways in which the Government can encourage these industries. If any such directions in which the Government can encourage these industries are brought to their notice, they are prepared to examine them.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1.50 P. M. to meet again at 3 o'clock.

10. Certain Needs of the Minachil Taluk.

MR. ITTIYAVIRA CHUMMAR (*Member, Nominated*) prayed for the establishment of a Taluk Office and a Magistrate's Court at Monipalli. The peculiar conditions of North Travancore, which were not well known either to the Government or the Legislative Council or the Assembly, emboldened him to make that

request even when the declared policy of the Government was to reduce the existing number of taluks. The *pakuthies* of Elakkad, Ulavur, Piravam, Kanakkari and Kuttattukulam, the *karas* of Kattampakku, Nizhur and Arunuttimangalam in the Katturutti *pakuthi*, and some *karas* in the Mulakkulam *pakuthi* would together comprise sufficient jurisdiction for a Tahsildar. Conditions were similar in those *pakuthies*, of which Monipalli was the geographical centre and deserved to be the headquarters. The member gave particulars of the distances from those *pakuthies* to their respective Taluk Offices and Magistrates' Courts located at Minachil, Muvattupuzha, Vaikam and Ettumanur and pointed out how his proposal would afford great relief to the people. As an alternative, he suggested the transfer of the Stationary Magistrate's Court at Ettumanur to Monipalli, Pullavattam or Kuravalangad.

The member next urged that the village road from Piravam to Ramapuram via Elanji, Alappuram and Monipalli should be made fit for cart traffic, the portion from the Piravam market landing to the Main Central Road, 114th mile, being at least metalled at once.

The member wished that the proposed Kottarakara-Alwaye railway line should pass through Minachil and said that the funds required could be obtained from the Savings Banks deposits if the rate of interest be raised to six per cent.

DEWAN : Mr. Ittiyavira Chummar, you want either a Taluk Office to be established at Monipalli or the Ettumanur Sub-Magistrate's Court to be transferred from Ettumanur to Monipalli. This is a new matter and the report of the Peishkar has not yet been received. As this is a matter which will have to be examined in the light of local conditions, it will be referred to the local officers and their report called for. After that, the matter will be considered and disposed of by the Government.

As for the village road from Piravam to Ramapuram via Elanji, Alappuram and Monipalli, I learn that the road from Piravam to Elanji has been partly improved both by the department concerned and the people. For further improvement, provision has been made in the budget and the improvement work will be undertaken this year. A portion of the road from Elanji to Monipalli has recently been improved, and deviations have been made, wherever necessary, by the people. The maintenance grant for the cartable portion has already been increased.

In regard to the alignment of the railway line from Kottarakara to Cochin, the consideration of the matter at this stage is premature. The survey has not advanced sufficiently and we are not yet in a position therefore to know the various routes which will be suggested and the reasons in support of each of them. Every one of the arguments will be gone through, and the decision on the question will be arrived at only after very careful consideration.

The question of financing the railway again does not arise at all until the actual construction is about to be undertaken. As I have already said in my address, such big works should be started only if there is sufficient capital. You have mentioned in your representation that the chances of a loan being subscribed for the railway are good. You refer to Savings Banks deposits. Government are prepared to take any amount of them. But it will have to be remembered that they are meant to encourage savings on the part of the poor. Another main object of Savings Banks deposits is to make them serve the purpose of current deposit accounts. Facilities are afforded to the poor for putting in and drawing out money whenever they want. It is not an institution which is intended for the raising of long time loans. The Government will explore all avenues of raising borrowed capital for the purpose of constructing the railway, when the time for considering its financing comes up.

The member sought an assurance as to the particular route the line will take.

DEWAN: Which particular route the line should take can be determined only after the survey is over. The survey officer will examine the several alternative lines. He will send in his report and the Government will consider the matter and then decide.

The member said that, in his memorandum, he had included, as one of the subjects, a suggestion that, in memory of His Highness the late Maha Raja, poor feeding should be conducted in all *pakuthies* of the State on the anniversary of His Highness' death, *viz.*, the 23rd Karkatakam.

DEWAN: That subject was taken out because one member cannot talk on more than two distinct subjects altogether. Anyhow, you have spoken about it.

The member said he wanted such a memorial, particularly as Karkatakam was a famine month.

II. Working of the Land Conservancy Regulation in the Shencottah Taluk.

MR. S. A. HARIHARAKRISHNA AIYAR (*Member, Shencottah taluk*) first referred to the inaccuracies in the last survey and the consequent hardship in the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation in the Shencottah taluk. The survey operations in the taluk were conducted on the base-line and off-set system under which accurate measurements were not taken. The theodolite stones were themselves in wrong stations and as such unreliable for checking the accuracies of the several measurements. The refixing of theodolite stones was felt a necessity by the Survey Department and a surveyor was deputed to do the work, which had to be given up after some time on account of the confusion and difficulties experienced during the progress of the work. The present land records maintenance work at Shencottah was confined to the side measurements alone and encroachment cases were started on the basis of those measurements; and the survey and settlement records did not at all tally with the conditions on the ground. The encroachments in some of the cases taken up by the local authorities were, on inspection and close scrutiny, found to be registered holdings by the Land Records Superintendent. Under the Land Records Maintenance Rules, the Tahsildar of the taluk was expected to check 20 per cent. of the cases surveyed by the Accountants. The Tahsildar could not obviously check each and every case and satisfy himself as to the correctness of the measurement. Nor was it possible for him to verify the theodolite stations to which reference should be made in such cases. A correct survey rested on the correct location of theodolite stations; and, as stated in the opening address of the Dewan, the re-fixing of theodolite stones was a necessary preliminary to regular land records maintenance work. The work of refixing theodolite stones in the taluk correctly should in the first place be completed.

The Tahsildar of Shencottah took up some encroachment cases on the backyards of some houses in the Amman Sannidhi Street, Shencottah town. The Shencottah-Samburvatakara road runs along the eastern side of those backyards. The width of the road was 20 ft. and the road was originally constructed on land acquired from the adjoining private holdings. The member contended that the encroachments detected by the Tahsildar were not real encroachments as the road was not correspondingly narrow at those places, as the extent recorded in respect of the houses covered also the portions alleged to be encroachments, as there were substantial buildings and structures that came into existence ever prior to the opening of the road, and as there were fruit-bearing cocoanut trees fifty and sixty years old standing there, belonging to the adjacent house-owners. The Land Records Superintendent, who happened to visit the locality at the time, found, on a careful reference to the theodolite stones and scrutiny of measurements of properties, that they were not encroachments and that they were the outcome of the inaccuracies in survey records. As it was not possible for the Superintendent to inspect all such cases and render justice to the people aggrieved, it was absolutely essential to employ a theodolite surveyor. The local authorities blindly followed the survey measurements and refused to admit even palpable mistakes. The member illustrated his statements by other instances of clear mistakes which the Tahsildar should have reported and got rectified. It was only in doubtful cases that the